



## Message from the Director

### More to Come

Last week, I had the opportunity to address over 100 wardens at an annual training sponsored by the Federal Bureau of Prisons. At that event, I shared with the wardens a good deal of information about NIC, but I am also pleased to share with you even more of the exciting work we have going on at NIC. Most notably, we have completed and made available the complete works of the NIC Parole Essentials series. Staff who have worked on the project are featured in an informative interview below. In another interview, NIC staff discussed the significant developments of the NIC Pretrial Network, as presented in one of our most recently released documents *Measuring What Matters*. I hope that you are benefiting from all we have to offer. There is a lot more to come.

**Morris Thigpen, Director**

## Parole Series Now Complete and Available Online

Now available online in its entirety, the NIC parole essentials series offers practical information and best practices for parole board members and leaders. This month, the series project management team got together to discuss the series and its documents at length. Former NIC Correctional Program Specialist Cathy Banks joins current Correctional Program Specialist Robbye Braxton-Mintz in the excerpt below:

**Question:** Why is the parole series so important to the field?

**Cathy Banks (CB):** It's important because it provides the field with a practical hands-on guide for running a paroling authority. Many parole officials are unable to get to the NIC trainings, and the series gets them some basic information...

**Robbye Braxton-Mintz (RBM):** The guidebooks "push" the parole field in the direction of evidence-based practices...

**CB:** The series also builds on work done by NIC years ago with the development of the document "Comprehensive Framework for Paroling Authorities," and it complements the new NIC training for parole board members and chairs.

**Question:** What makes the parole series more valuable than any other parole book available?

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## Upcoming Events

**Vera Institute of Justice**  
[Neil A. Weiner Research Speaker Series](#)

**October 18, 2011.** Associate Professor Devah Pager, Princeton University and Ph.D. candidate Michelle Phelps, Princeton University discuss corrections in "A Turning Point for Mass Incarceration?"

**November 7, 2011.** Professor Faye Taxman, George Mason University discusses recidivism reduction and sentencing in corrections using results from a simulation model.

**NIC Satellite/Internet Broadcast**  
[Offender Employment Retention: Worth the Work](#)

In this upcoming satellite/internet broadcast, viewers will learn about offender employment programming and explore related evidence-based practices that increase public safety while helping to reduce recidivism.

The broadcast will air November 2, 2011, 12 noon to 3pm EST. For more information and registration, visit NIC online.

**The Focal Spot**  
[Hear "The Focal Spot" on the](#)

**CB:** There has not been a comprehensive piece of work like this. We have always had separate articles or studies, but nothing that puts it all together and gives the paroling authority the “big picture.”... In addition, it is based on recent research around what’s working in parole and provides some answers about implementing some of the things that are working...which is always the hardest part of making change.

### [Employment Retention Initiative](#)

Host Fredelyne Alcide of “The Focal Spot,” a new online broadcast, welcomes P. Elizabeth Taylor, Correctional Program Specialist at NIC, as she discusses offender employment retention and what Americans can do to develop and improve offender employment programs.

The call-in show will air November 3, 2011 at 7pm EST. Listen online at [www.blogtalkradio.com/thefocalspot](http://www.blogtalkradio.com/thefocalspot).

**Question:** **Is the series intended only for parole professionals?**

**RBM:** No, the series can be used by policymakers, DOC officials, and other stakeholders in the field. The series can also be used in institutions of higher learning as an education primer. It can be used by anyone who wants to have a better understanding of how the paroling authority should operate.

### **New in the NIC Info Center**

**PREVENTING THE SEXUAL ABUSE OF LESBIAN, GAY, TRANSGENDER, AND INTERSEX PEOPLE IN CORRECTIONAL SETTINGS**  
**Comments Submitted in Response to National Standards to Prevent, Detect, and Respond to Prison Rape**

This report highlights the comments submitted from LGBTI legal organizations during the PREA commenting period in 2011. Please visit NIC online to [download a copy](#) of the report.

**Question:** **How should the series be used?**

**RBM:** It can be used as a way to orient governors and state legislators about the operations and purpose of parole.

**CB:** The series can be used as a guide to delivering technical assistance to the field. It can be used in paroling authorities as an annual refresher training or as part of a paroling agency’s employee orientation program.

Copies of the parole series documents are available now on the NIC website. The series includes:

- [Core Competencies: A Resource for Parole Board Chairs, Members, and Executive Staff](#)—Outlines the core knowledge, skills, and abilities that paroling authorities should have to ensure effective parole decisionmaking and outcomes.
- [Evidence-Based Policy, Practice, and Decisionmaking: Implications for Paroling Authorities](#)—Focuses on the research derived from evidence-based practice and considers how these findings impact parole.
- [Paroling Authorities’ Strategic Planning and Management for Results](#)—Assists parole boards in the development of appropriate management and performance measurement systems.
- [Special Challenges Facing Parole](#)—Addresses the challenges that special offender populations can pose to parole board decisionmaking.
- [The Future of Parole as a Key Partner in Assuring Public Safety](#)—Provides suggestions and examples for applying the principles of risk, need, and responsivity to parole decisionmaking.

### **Useful Links**

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### **Questions/Comments About the Newsletter?**

[Send us an e-mail.](#)

## **Pretrial Performance Measurement Broadcast Available Online**

A recent edition of [D.C. Public Safety Radio](#)—a production of the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency of the District of Columbia—features NIC Correctional

Program Specialist Lori Eville as she discusses pretrial performance and outcome measurement alongside Spurgeon Kennedy, Director of Research, Analysis, and Development for the Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia.

Under discussion was the significant role of pretrial services agencies in supporting public safety, the use of risk and needs assessment in effective pretrial decisionmaking, and *Measuring What Matters*, a new NIC document outlining recommended measures that pretrial services agencies can use to evaluate and measure improvements of their performance and pretrial outcomes.

The broadcast is titled [\*National Institute of Corrections and DC Pretrial—Measuring What Matters—DC Public Safety\*](#) and is available online via the DC Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency website.

## American Jobs Act to Benefit Public Safety Workforce

President Obama has proposed a new job creation and preservation effort known as the American Jobs Act. The act proposes tax cuts and other incentives that would help small businesses and local governments develop new jobs and protect existing ones. Highlights of the act include a \$5 billion proposal that aims to retain and recruit public safety and first responder personnel. In addition, the act supports the creation of an infrastructure that would lead to the development of an interoperable wireless network, which could enhance communications and coordinated public safety efforts.

For more information about the act, visit the [White House's interactive Jobs Act Overview webpage](#), which includes related videos, fact sheets, and a state-by-state analysis of how the act could affect areas locally.

## \$118 Million Awarded to Support Tribal Public Safety Efforts

The U.S. Department of Justice has announced the award of \$18 million in funds to support tribal public safety efforts, including those in corrections and correctional alternatives. Under the department's Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation, applicants may apply for assistance through the Office of Justice Programs, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, and the Office on Violence Against Women.

## National Sheriffs' Association Launches New Website

Each year, the National Institute of Corrections sponsors the National Sheriffs' Institute training in partnership with the National Sheriffs' Association. Most recently, the Association celebrated the relaunch of its website at [www.sheriffs.org](http://www.sheriffs.org). The new site design boasts easier navigation, links to resources, and criminal justice news.